

PURPOSE

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), with support from the State's Legislature and public and private stakeholders, is implementing a child welfare continuum of care model which includes a case rate funding methodology to improve outcomes for children and families.

Child placing agencies contracted to participate in the child welfare continuum of care model must deliver child welfare services including foster care, independent living, guardianship, and adoption to eligible children and families under the care and supervision of MDHHS. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Full foster care and adoption case management.
- Full family responsibility.
- Service coordination and delivery to children and parents from case acceptance to dismissal from court jurisdiction or case closure for former MCI wards.
- Foster family recruitment and retention.
- Foster home certification.
- Adoptive family recruitment.

Note: Juvenile justice services are not included in the child welfare continuum of care model.

DEFINITIONS

Consortium - a group of individuals or licensed child placing agencies formed to create a single licensed child placing agency, contracted by MDHHS, to provide or sub-contract direct child welfare services.

Placement Agency Foster Care (PAFC) Provider - a licensed child placing agency contracted by a consortium or MDHHS to provide direct child welfare services.

Case Rate - a fixed payment rate or rates that is set to cover, on average, the cost of an individual child's contractually required service and placement needs. Payments are dispersed

prospectively and based on projected costs for the child that reflect the child's level of care and estimated case management service.

Certification Worker - an individual within a licensed child placing agency assigned to perform foster home certification functions as outlined in child placing agency rules.

POLICY COMPLIANCE

Integration with Other Program and Payments Policy

The policy items specified below supersede other MDHHS child welfare program and payment policy requirements when conflicts arise specific to the child welfare continuum of care model.

- FOM 915, Child Welfare Continuum of Care-Overview.
- FOM 915A, Child Welfare Continuum of Care –Program Requirements.
- FOM 915B, Child Welfare Continuum of Care –Funding and Payment Requirements.
- FOM 915C, Child Welfare Continuum of Care-Performance Goals and Monitoring.

Note: When servicing dual wards, FOM 915A, Case Management of Dual Wards in this item must be followed in addition to [FOM 722-06D, Case Management of Dual Wards](#).

Unless otherwise identified in the specified manual items above, contracted child placing agencies operating under the child welfare continuum of care model and the consortium sub-contractors must comply with:

- Relevant and applicable court orders.
- Applicable child welfare federal and state laws.
- Applicable licensing and regulatory rules.
- Applicable MDHHS Children's Services Policy and Policy Amendments including:
 - MDHHS Children's Protective Services Manual (PSM).
 - MDHHS Children's Foster Care Manual (FOM).

- MDHHS Adoption Services Manual (ADM).
- MDHHS Guardianship Manual (GDM).
- MDHHS Services General Requirements (SRM).
- MDHHS Native American Affairs Manual (NAA).
- All applicable provisions in the *Dwayne B. v. Snyder, et al.*, Case No.: 2:06-cv-13548 (E.D. Mich) Implementation, Sustainability, and Exit Plan.

The consortium must review all state policy updates, to assure consortium policy and procedures are consistent with effective MDHHS policies.

MISACWIS FISCAL AND PROGRAM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For all assigned cases in MiSACWIS, the consortium must ensure all case management activities, including service authorizations, expenditures, and all required documentation is entered into the appropriate location in MiSACWIS.

CONSORTIUM POLICY AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

The consortium must submit agency policy and procedures as identified in FOM 915A, Child Welfare Continuum of Care-Program Requirements and FOM 915B, Child Welfare Continuum of Care-Funding and Payment Requirements, and FOM 915C, Child Welfare Continuum of Care-Performance Goals and Monitoring to the MDHHS assigned Child Welfare Services and Support analyst for approval prior to implementation.

Revisions in operating procedures or policy must be provided to the assigned MDHHS Child Welfare Services and Support analyst for approval prior to implementation.

MDHHS will approve or reject proposed policy and procedures within 30 calendar days of receipt.

All consortium policies must be accessible to the public and accessible via the MDHHS policy website.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

State

Social Welfare Act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.14f

The department may contract with a private individual or agency to administer a program created under this act or to perform a duty of the department under this act.

Social Welfare Act, Public Act 280 of 1939, MCL 400.117a (1)(g)

The department shall implement a prospective payment system as part of a state-administered performance-based child welfare system.

Public Act 84 of 2015, Article X, Section 503(7) and 504(2)

The department may develop a master agreement with a consortium, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt as defined under section 501(c) (3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 501, consisting of a network of affiliated child welfare service providers, to accept and comprehensively assess referred youth, assign cases to members of its continuum or leverage services from other entities, and make appropriate case management decisions during the duration of a case.

Public Act 84 of 2015, Article X, Section 503(2)

The department shall continue to develop a prospective rate payment system for private agencies that includes funding for adoption incentive payments. The full cost prospective rate payment system will identify and cover contractual costs paid through the case rate developed by an independent actuary.